

FOR OUR CHILDREN

***An index of services for
the visually impaired child.***

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"FOR OUR CHILDREN"

The scope of services and number of programs provided to the visually impaired child in Alberta is extremely broad but a problem exists. The problem is caused by the complexities of the numbers, definitions, and difficulty in simply locating basic information about all of the services available. Discussions with parents of visually impaired children continually disclose the fact that they are not aware of specific programs that might aid their child or themselves, despite their own research, and despite the aid of various professionals. The need for a central registry of services for visually impaired children appeared logical and became possible with a grant from Alberta Social Services and Community Health which was used to hire two research students under the Summer Temporary Employment Program. The students, Charlene Zelt and Bill Thompson searched out services for visually impaired children in Alberta, either government sponsored or private, either existing or in the operational planning stage.

The research has been edited and amassed into a format designed for easy reference. The color coding operates as follows:

Green: Services provided by Alberta Education and school authorities
Yellow: Services provided by private agencies
Pink: Services provided by hospital agencies and/or medical personnel
Orange: Services provided by Social Services agencies
Blue: Services provided by any other agencies.

Every effort has been made to present accurate information.. All of it has been checked by the involved agency. The quality of any service is dependent upon the person(s) supplying it. The services described herein represent the ideal for each program. It is our hope services supplied will equal or exceed those explained here, that new programs will fill obvious needs, and that expanded communication channels between agencies will result.

If you have a suggestion for a change or addition to the services please write either the Edmonton or Calgary chapter of the Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired listed in this index.

Services provided by Alberta Education and school authorities

- Advanced Education
- Program Consultants in Special Education
- Coordinated Rehabilitation and Education Program (C.O.R.E.)
- Coordinated Assessment and Program Planning for Education (C.A.P.E.)
- Materials Resource Centre
- The Itinerant Teacher
- Waverley Braille Classes

ADVANCED EDUCATION

Advanced Education, a Department of the Provincial Government, offers assistance to handicapped students attending a post-secondary educational institution.

A. PROGRAMS & B. ELIGIBILITY

This assistance is divided into three components:

1. Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons is a cost-share agreement between the Provincial and Federal governments, and is designed to assist disabled people to become employable. This program will provide funds for tuition, books, and transportation. In addition the program provides a living allowance, and access to specialized equipment.
2. A program, at present in the experimental stage, offers funds for special counselling and support services for the disabled. This program is designed to determine the type of assistance required; the main focus being meeting individual needs. Currently this program is offered through the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, and Grant McEwan College.
3. The Student Finance Board, offers two grants for handicapped persons attending a post-secondary education institution. The first is a grant for equipment and aids, this grant is one thousand dollars per term. The second is a maintenance grant, which is designed to assist handicapped persons repaying loans. In the application for these grants a financial need must be shown in each case.

C. CONTACT

V.R.D.P. or Career Centre is made accessible by calling Advanced Education.

Contact registrars office at each institution for further information about second programs.

Grants for handicapped persons attending a post-secondary education, may be made accessible by calling the Student Finance Board, at 427-2740 in Edmonton and 261-6188 in Calgary.

PROGRAM CONSULTANTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. Program

The Department of Alberta Education has special education consultants based in regional offices. Such consultants are a resource to schools who teach children with special needs. School staff can request services from the consultants. These services include program and curriculum development, identification of materials, coordination of resources, inservice training for staff teaching the child, consultation with the parents if required.

B. Eligibility

All private and public schools.

C. Cost

There is no cost to this program.

D. Contact

Office

Calgary	261-6353
Edmonton	427-2952
Grande Prairie	539-2130
Lethbridge	329-5243
Red Deer	343-5262

AGENCY: COORDINATED REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM (C.O.R.E.)

Calgary Board of Education

Coordinated Rehabilitation and Education Program (C.O.R.E.), operated by the Calgary Board of Education in Calgary, under contract with Alberta Education, is a program designed for sensory multi-handicapped and autistic pupils. This is a new, developing program and it is not anticipated that full service will be available until 1983.

Program Supervisor

Dr. Ann Kennedy

Location

Emily Follensbee School
5139 - 14 St. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2T 3W5
Telephone: 243-6128

A. PROGRAM

1. Assessment Service

Disciplines Represented

Audiology	Occupational Therapy
Orthoptics	Physiotherapy
Psychology	Speech Pathology
Counselling	Special Education

B. ELIGIBILITY

The assessment services accepts referrals of sensory multi-handicapped children from day of diagnosis to age 18, who are residents of southern Alberta (Red Deer south).

School age children should be referred through their local school jurisdiction. Pre-school age children are referred by family doctors, public health nurses, day care staff or other agencies. School age children are referred through their school jurisdiction. All referrals must include permission from parents for the referral and copies of any medical reports.

1. Services

The assessment service includes program planning, monitoring, follow-up assessments, parent counselling and teacher consultation. The assessment will be diagnostic to identify the needs of the child in terms of physiotherapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy in a format to teach on a daily basis. Educational assessment may be long term or short term. The purpose is to develop an individual educational plan on behalf of each pupil including all activities such as therapies and interventions.

This service has been in operation since 1981 providing service to school age pupils within Calgary. Referrals of preschool and school age pupils residing in southern Alberta are now being accepted. Off-site assessment will be considered where appropriate.

C. COST

The assessment service is provided at no cost to the parents or school jurisdiction. The funding is provided through the Department of Education.

Handicapped Children's Services will pay expenses for parents involved in travelling for their children's assessment.

2. School Program (In Calgary)

Full time placement in a C.O.R.E. class is available to sensory multi-handicapped pupils residing in southern Alberta. The various therapies are available to pupils in the school program.

A. ELIGIBILITY

Referrals for placement in the school program in Calgary are made through referral to the assessment service. Placement recommendations will be made by the assessment team in cooperation with parents and the pupil's home school jurisdiction.

B. COST

Programs for school age pupils are funded 85% by Alberta Education. The pupil's home school jurisdiction is responsible for payment of 15% of the program cost. It is expected that the Calgary Board of Education will set a non-resident tuition fee for these programs.

3. Pre-school Programs (in Calgary)

All services available to school-age pupils will also be available to pre-school children. The age of eligibility for pre-school services is two and a half.

In home and educational programs will be available for children two and a half to five years of age. They will be half day programs. Pre-school programs in Calgary will begin in the fall of 1982. While referrals may be made now, it is anticipated that this program will be phased in over the course of the 1982-83 school year and that full service to pupils from southern Alberta will not occur until the fall of 1983.

A. COST

Services to pre-school age children are provided at no cost to parents, the sponsor agency or school jurisdiction. It is funded 100% by Alberta Education.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Referrals are made to the assessment service.

4. Outreach and Support Service (Pre-school and School Age)

Service

The intent of this service is to support pupils in their home placement wherever possible. The service will provide consultation, inservice and support from therapists to assist jurisdictions or agencies to meet the special sensory needs of eligible pupils in southern Alberta.

The outreach support service will be available in the fall of 1982 to a limited extent. This will be phased in over the 1982-83 school year.

A. ELIGIBILITY

Referral is made through the assessment service.

B. COST

There is not cost for this service on behalf of pre-school age children. The sponsoring school jurisdiction will be responsible for 15% of the cost of the on-site service for school age pupils.

5. Summer Intervention

There was no summer intervention program offered through the Calgary Board of Education during 1982. It is expected that summer intervention for those pupils who require it, will be implemented in 1983.

6. Residential Provisions

Status

Alberta Social Services and Community Health has accepted responsibility for the provision of group homes to serve pupils in the sensory multi-handicapped programs. Plans are currently under way to construct two group homes in Calgary as the first step in meeting this responsibility.

7. Facility Development

Some renovation of facilities has been completed at the Emily Follensbee School to house the program and assessment team. New construction will begin soon to complete an addition to that school which will accommodate assessment and program staff. The addition will have a therapeutic pool and an apartment. The apartment will serve the dual purpose of providing a site for instruction in the area of living skills and will also provide accommodation for children and parents during assessment and for teachers or others visiting the program for the purpose of inservice education. Other classroom sites in the city will also be used to accommodate C.O.R.E. classes as necessary.

AGENCY: COORDINATED ASSESSMENT
AND PROGRAM PLANNING FOR EDUCATION (C.A.P.E.)
Edmonton Public School District

Coordinated Assessment and Program Planning for Education (C.A.P.E.), operated by Edmonton Public School District in Edmonton, under contract with Alberta Education, is a program designed for sensory multihandicapped and autistic pupils. This is a new, developing program and it is not anticipated that full service will be available until 1984.

Program Supervisor

Dr. A. Hillyard

Location

Edmonton Public School District
10010 - 107A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0Z8
Phone: 429-5621 ext. 277

The contract for the provision of services was signed March 2, 1982. At present two schools, Hazeldean and Waverly, have been identified as program sites. Additional program locations in schools of the district will be identified prior to September 1982. The site for the assessment centre has not yet been finalized. It will contain a living suite arrangement so that parents may be present during the one or two day assessment. The suite will also be used for orientation and mobility assessment and general daily living skills. It is anticipated that renovations to existing schools and some new construction will be required for the program.

A. PROGRAMS

Summer Intervention

Two intervention programs were operated during the summer of 1982.

A program, in cooperation with the C.N.I.B., was provided for deaf-blind pupils. Interveners went to the home of the child and work on a daily basis. Help was given to the parents to communicate with the child and an attempt was made to integrate the child into community recreational activities.

A program, in cooperation with the Association for the Dependent Handicapped and the University of Alberta provided summer programs for some multi-handicapped children. This six week educational program, which was based at Elmwood School, presented a regular education atmosphere but emphasized socialization.

Staffing

Staffing for the assessment team and other specialists is now under way. The first priority will be to fully staff the assessment unit and the classroom programs for the fall of 1982.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Referrals may be made by school jurisdictions or E.C.S. operators to:

Mr. Peter S. Little
Student Placement Services
Edmonton Public School District
10010 - 107A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0Z8

Implementation

In the initial year of this program services will be phased in as staff becomes available. While referrals may be made immediately, caution should be observed in terms of expectations for service to children outside the boundaries of Edmonton during this first year of operation. A meeting will be scheduled in the fall to advise E.C.S. and Special Education Consultants in Northern Alberta of the specific services which will be available during the 1982-83 school year.

AGENCY: MATERIALS RESOURCE CENTRE

The materials provided by The Materials Resource Centre are available for use by visually impaired children enrolled in an education program in Alberta.

A. PROGRAM

The centre provides brailled, large type and tape-recorded books and mechanical and electronic aids.

Over 4,000 textbooks and fiction titles which have been transcribed to tape, braille and large type are available in the Centre.

Other equipment provided by the Materials Resource Centre include:

Brailers	Reading Stands
Large Print Electric Typewriters	Braille Slates and Styluses
Manual Typewriters	Braille Geometry Sets
Speech Plus Calculators	Audible Balls
Tape Recorders	Raised Line Drawing Kits
Portable TV Scanners	Light Sensors
Split Screen TV Scanner	Beacon Finders
Typing Aids	Abaci
Speech Compressors	Bevil Squares
Optacons	Drill Guides
*Versabraille	Standard Squares
*Disgcassette	Metre Sticks
Phone Ears	*Braille Labelers
Green Screen	

Catalogs listing the materials of the Centre are available upon request. Monthly acquisition lists are also added to allow users to keep up to date on newly purchased or produced materials.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Loans of materials and/or equipment may be permitted for use in Alberta Education programs is:

1. Consultants for demonstration or teaching intentions.
2. Intinerant teachers for classroom use.
3. Classroom teachers/parents/students with a consultant's recommendation.

C. COST

There is no cost for materials and equipoment borrowed. Fiction titles should be returned to the Centre each month, but other materials may be borrowed for a full school year or semester.

D. CONTACT

To order materials which are presently unavailable at the Centre, requests should be made at least four months in advance. Braille, large print, and recorded materials may be made. Requests should be made on standard student request form (available from the Centre).

* This equipment is for use at the Centre Only.

Materials Resource Centre
Devonian Building, West Tower
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L2
Telephone: (403) 427-4681

THE ITINERANT TEACHER

An itinerant teacher works with visually impaired children from pre-school age through to grade twelve as is necessary or needed. The itinerant gives advice and assistance to teachers, school personnel, parents, and students who have been integrated into the regular classroom.

The itinerant teacher may be hired through the public or separate school boards.

A. PROGRAM

Specific Functions of Itinerant for the Visually Impaired

Service to Teachers

1. Assist in the preparation of special materials (transcribing assignments, tests, diagrams, etc.) and have these available when needed;
2. Provide specialized and ongoing consultation to teachers with visually impaired students on topics such as:
 - a. interpreting eye reports and their implications.
 - b. how materials and teaching procedures have to be modified for visually impaired students;
3. Provide professional development to groups of teachers regarding the nature and educational implications of visual impairment;
4. Act as a resource to teachers in giving inservice to classes of regular students regarding the nature and implications of visual impairment;
5. Develop curriculum specifically for braille using students.

Service to Students

1. Tutor students in specific areas required to compensate for their handicap, which areas include:

Braille
auditory scanner
talking calculator
abacus
optacon
orientation
mobility
visual scanner;

2. Counsel students who encounter special difficulties due to their visual handicap, which difficulties could include problems with interpersonal relationships, career planning, educational planning;
3. Provide specialized equipment and materials to enable the student to cope in the classroom, such as, to provide and arrange for the production of large print, braille, and taped materials of texts, daily assignments, examination and notes; in some cases assignments or tests have to be read to the student.

Service to Other School Personnel

1. Act as consultant to counsellors, administrators, and other school system personnel regarding visually impaired students, in general or in specific, including arranging for the developing of special projects for credit at the high school level;
2. Act as a liaison between school personnel, parents, and agencies involved with the visually impaired (C.N.I.B., opthamologists, Alberta Education.)

Service to Parents

1. Help parents understand the implications of visual impairment through individual consultation and assist in helping parents locate and utilize community resources;
2. Provide liaison between parents and school personnel, and in-home programs for parents to use with their children.

Other

1. Speak to community and service groups and university classes as part of public education on the visually impaired;
2. Specialization in a specific skill area.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Referrals:

Referrals may come from bureau teams, teachers, counsellors, parents, principals, C.N.I.B., or the Department of Education.

AGENCY: WAVERLEY BRAILLE CLASSES

Waverley Elementary School is a regular school within the Edmonton Public School District. It includes a program for visually impaired students who range in age from seven to twelve years. All visually impaired children in this program are eligible for door to door service on a yellow school bus.

A. PROGRAM

Waverley Elementary School includes kindergarten through grade six. When the visually impaired child first enters the school, he/she usually begins in a segregated classroom where all subjects are taught. In this class the children are introduced to braille or large print materials. As the child's abilities develop, introduction into an integrated setting occurs.

Usually at least one aide is in each classroom to assist the teacher in the implementation of the program.

To enable them to enter and carry on in regular programs students are taught to use the following special equipment: abacus, tape recorder, brailier, slate and stylus and typewriter (in grade four).

When visually impaired children have completed grade six, they enter a regular junior high school, a vocational setting, or to learn a trade and social skills. They continue to receive the services of one or both an aide or itinerant teacher.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Access to Waverly Braille Classes is made through the Edmonton Public School Board.

C. CONTACT

Waverley Elementary School
6825 - 89 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 469-6682

A similar program is available in Calgary at:

Brentwood Elementary School
1231 Northmount Drive, N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 284-4868

Services provided by Private Agencies:

- Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind
- Multiple Handicapped Intervention Program
- Childrens Program
- Teen Program
- DeafBlind Summer Intervention Program
- Work Experience Summer Program

ALBERTA SOCIETY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired (A.S.V.I.) was established in 1971 by concerned parents and educators who sought to develop to the highest degree, the medical, mental, social and spiritual capabilities of the visually impaired child. In 1971 many visually impaired students were attending residential schools in Ontario and British Columbia. Parents sought to keep their children at home and provide the best in educational opportunities.

To this end the A.S.V.I. formed district organizations in Calgary and Edmonton as well as a provincial council.

A. PROGRAMS

1. On a yearly basis, the A.S.V.I. applies for a grant from Alberta Education to provide funding for the education of individuals from across Alberta, involved in the area of visual impairment. These bursaries are intended to help defray the costs of attending professional development seminars, conferences, or university programs in the areas of the visually impaired. The university programs vary from summer sessions (at Universities across the United States) to full year programs offered at the University of British Columbia.
2. In recent years the Society has assisted in organizing short span outdoor education programs. In March 1981, the program was offered at Pioneer Lodge in Sundry, Alberta.
3. The A.S.V.I. to keep members informed invites to their monthly meetings individuals able to provide current information regarding ongoing programs, research and treatments for visually impaired children.

4. The A.S.V.I. conducts indepth investigations of new programs or existing problems and submissions expressing concerns are presented to responsible agencies.
5. The A.S.V.I. in their attempt to strive for the improvement of existing services and to ensure capable people enter the field of education for the visually impaired has and will continue to sponsor professional development workshops.

The Fourth Canadian Interdisciplinary Conference on the Visually Impaired Child, the most ambitious and comprehensive of these educational opportunities has brought international recognition and support for the activities of the A.S.V.I.

6. The A.S.V.I. acts as a referral agency and/or assists in funding for the purchase of educational and recreational equipment for visually impaired children.
7. The A.S.V.I. will continue to, through their fund raising projects, support these endeavors.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Any person interested in improving the quality of life for visually impaired children may join the A.S.V.I. General meetings for the Edmonton district are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Glenrose School Hospital, 10230 - 111 Avenue, Meeting Room #1.

C. COST

For the Edmonton District cost of membership is \$3/year
For the Calgary District cost of membership is \$2/year

D. CONTACT

A.S.V.I., Edmonton District
Box 8737, Station "L"
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 0Y0

A.S.V.I., Calgary District
c/o 1324 Southdale Crescent, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

AGENCY: CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is a registered charitable society and nonprofit organization, which offers a wide variety of services to blind and visually impaired persons.

A. PROGRAM

In reference to the visually impaired child and student, these services are:

1. The provision of a Childrens' Worker who: will attempt to offer support counselling to parents and family; will make referrals to other support agencies and clinics; will aid in placing the child in a normal day-care setting; will offer the use of toys and equipment designed to aid the development of the child.
2. The provision of a Rehabilitation Worker who: will offer lessons in braille, typing, optacon, and abacus; will offer instruction in daily living skills such as cooking, sewing, working in the kitchen and home; and will offer a basic adjustment to blindness course.
3. The provision of a Career Counsellor who: will offer vocational counselling, and career opportunities.
4. The provision of an Employment Counsellor who: will instruct in job search techniques; will attempt to aid in achieving employment; who will aid in orientation after employment.
5. The provision of the Eye Services department which: will examine and explain, when requested by the child's family, medical reports; will make referrals for genetic counselling; will make referrals to the Low Vision Clinic.
6. The operation of a sales room containing a wide variety of aids and appliances for visually impaired persons, including brailers,

taperecorders, watches, clocks, playing cards, games; the sales room contains equipment for visually impaired purchased through funding from the Aids to Daily Living Program; the sales room also contains a wide range of equipment suitable for children provided by Alberta Telephone Pioneers, for example, beeping balls, talking Snoopy, beeping hockey pucks.

7. The provision of a transcription service which will transcribe books onto cassette tape for students, and loan educational equipment.
8. The provision of specific benefits such as white canes, city bus transit passes, theater passes, motor-coach passes, railway passes, talking book library services, purchase orders, and tax deduction forms.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Services may be accessed by initiating contact with the Social Worker at C.N.I.B.

C. COST

There is no cost to individuals for services. The sales room may aid in the purchase of any equipment.

D. CONTACT

C.N.I.B.
12010 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 488-4871

C.N.I.B.
1260 Memorial Drive, N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 332-1184

C.N.I.B.
1273 - 3 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, Alberta
Telephone: 327-1044

PROGRAM: MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Multiple Handicapped Intervention program, organized and co-ordinated through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, is designed for children between the ages of two and eighteen years. In this program an intervenor works with the child four hours a day, five days a week. The duration of the program is determined by the needs of the child and the parents' desires.

A. PROGRAM

Five major objectives are:

1. To prevent regression.
2. To facilitate communication between the child and family, and to improve communication skills.
3. To aid in the development of socialization and recreation skills.
4. To improve the child's awareness of his environment through community involvement.
5. To provide a degree of parent relief.

In addition to these five objectives, the child's parents and teachers are asked to submit five objectives. Their goals may be a concentration in any area in which they feel the child will benefit.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Any multi-sensory handicapped child is eligible. The parents of such children may contact the children's caseworker at the C.N.I.B. regional office.

C. COST

Throughout the program, the intervenor and the child will encounter several minor costs, as a result of recreation. Parents are asked to cover these costs if possible, if not, other arrangements will be made.

D. CONTACT

Children's Case Worker
C.N.I.B.
12010 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 488-4871

Children's Case Worker
C.N.I.B.
1260 Memorial Dr., N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 332-1184

Children's Case Worker
C.N.I.B.
1273 - 3 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, Alberta
Telephone: 327-1044

PROGRAM: CHILDRENS PROGRAM

The Childrens program, organized by The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, operates throughout the summer months, and is designed for children between the ages of six and twelve years. The program is co-ordinated by the summer staff at the C.N.I.B., who also organize a two week day-camp which is held during the latter part of the summer.

A. PROGRAM

The main focus of this program is community integration; each child is assigned a volunteer, and the summer staff attempt to mainstream the child into regular recreation programs in the community.

Another aspect of the program is the two week day-camp. The day-camp has a wide variety of recreational activities to offer, which may include: swimming, arts and crafts, daily living skills, nature walks, picnics, indoor games, and many others.

B. ELIGIBILITY

All visually impaired children between the ages of six and twelve years are eligible. Application may be made through the C.N.I.B. office.

C. COST

There is no cost for the program; however, there is a ten dollars per child fee to cover day-camp expenses.

D. CONTACT

C.N.I.B.
12010 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 488-4871

C.N.I.B.
1260 Memorial Dr., N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 332-1184

C.N.I.B.
1273 - 3 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, Alberta
Telephone: 327-1044

PROGRAM: TEEN PROGRAM

The Teen Program, organized and co-ordinated through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, operates as a two week summer workshop designed for children between the ages of twelve to sixteen years.

The program is based on an eight hour training day, five days a week with a wide variety of recreational activities in the evenings. During the day, the children participate in a highly structured program which includes home economics (cooking and clean-up), industrial arts, sewing, personal hygiene, with some concentration on communication skills.

A. PROGRAM

This program has three primary objectives:

1. To acquaint the children with others who have a similar visual impairment and to encourage discussion of mutual problems;
2. To inform the children of alternate ways of assisting their teachers throughout school;
3. To increase the childrens' awareness of their personal potential by concentrating on daily living skills.

B. ELIGIBILITY

All visually impaired children between the ages of twelve to sixteen years are eligible. An application must be completed by parents with the children's worker at the C.N.I.B.

C. COST

There is no cost for this program; however, parents should be prepared to provide their child minimal spending money and transportation. If

transportation poses a problem due to distance the C.N.I.B. will attempt to bill the child.

D. CONTACT

Rehabilitation Worker
C.N.I.B.
12010 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 488-4871

Rehabilitation Worker
C.N.I.B.
1260 Memorial Dr., N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 332-1184

Rehabilitation Worker
C.N.I.B.
1273 - 3 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, Alberta
Telephone: 327-1044

PROGRAM: DEAF-BLIND SUMMER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Deaf-Blind Summer Intervention program, organized through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, in co-operation with Co-ordinated Assessment and Program Planning (C.A.P.E.) is designed for children between the ages of two and eighteen years, who are legally blind (six over sixty), and have suffered a severe hearing loss (sixty decibels or greater). This program is conducted on a province-wide scale, and up to the present has been co-ordinated through the central office of the C.N.I.B. in Edmonton, Alberta.

A. PROGRAM

The program operates over an eight hour day, five day week. The duration of the program is determined by the specific needs of the child, and the desires of the parents. An intervenor works with the child throughout the entire program.

Five major objectives are:

1. To prevent regression.
2. To facilitate communication between the child and family, and to improve communication skills.
3. To aid in the development of socialization, and recreation skills.
4. To improve upon the child's awareness of his environment through community involvement.
5. To provide a degree of parent relief.

In addition to these objectives, the parents and the child's school are asked to submit five objectives which they feel can be accomplished during the program. It is the responsibility of the intervenor to attempt to meet these goals with the child by first working in

conjunction with the school, and at the completion of the school year, working in the home.

The activities which the child and intervenor participate are determined by the objectives set down by the parents and teachers; some of these activities may include: swimming (lessons or recreation), biking, a variety of daily living skills, going to the park, attending fitness classes.

B. ELIGIBILITY

For access to the program a letter will be sent to parents of deaf-blind children from the C.N.I.B. Parents may, if necessary, contact the C.N.I.B.

C. COST

Throughout the program, the intervenor and the child will encounter several minor costs, as a result of recreation. Parents are asked to cover these costs if possible, if not, other arrangements will be made.

D. CONTACT

Social Worker
C.N.I.B.
12010 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 488-4871

Social Worker
C.N.I.B.
1260 Memorial Dr., N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 332-1184

Social Worker
C.N.I.B.
1273 - 3 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, Alberta
Telephone: 327-1044

PROGRAM: WORK EXPERIENCE SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Work Experience Summer Program is designed to aid visually impaired students in high school or a post-secondary educational facility in acquiring job training.

A. PROGRAM

The two main objectives of this program are:

1. To provide specialized job training in a normal working environment, and as a result to encourage a realistic attitude towards employment.
2. To provide career counselling, and to increase awareness of alternate employment opportunities.

B. ELIGIBILITY

The process by which students gain access to this program is as follows:

1. The Employment Counselling contacts all registered visually impaired students in the regional area, informing them of the program opportunities.
2. If a student is interested, the Employment Counsellor arranges a interview with the student to determine relevant skills and interests.
3. The Employment Counsellor attempts to match the student's skills with a suitable employer.
4. Once the student is placed, the Employment Counsellor merely acts as a liaison, in case any unforeseen difficulties arise on the job site.

C. COST

The funding for this program varies from year to year; in 1982, this program was made available under the Summer Canada Student Employment Project, funded by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. There is no cost to the student or his family.

D. CONTACT

Employment Counsellor
C.N.I.B.
12010 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 488-4871

Employment Counsellor
C.N.I.B.
1260 Memorial Dr., N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Telephone: 332-1184

Employment Counsellor
C.N.I.B.
1273 - 3 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, Alberta
Telephone: 327-1044

Services provided by hospital agencies and/or medical personnel:

- Alberta Children's Hospital
- Glenrose Hospital
- Opthamologist
- Retinal Unit
- Optometrist

AGENCY: Alberta Children's Hospital
DIAGNOSIS: Assessment and Treatment Centre

A. Program

The Vision Clinic is a multi-disciplinary clinic that provides assessment and treatment to children who have been diagnosed or are considered to be legally blind; this includes children with partial vision. The clinic serves children from birth to eighteen years who reside in southern Alberta (south of Red Deer).

VISION CLINIC TEAM:

Ophthalmologist: (Dr. Culver)

Provides ophthalmological consultation. Dr. Culver has a half hour to see each family. He examines the child's eyes and how well they use their sight, explains to the parents what the diagnosis means, and explains to the other team members and involved community agencies about the child's visual deficits so that appropriate program recommendations can be made. All on-going ophthalmological care is referred back to the child's own ophthalmologist.

Pediatrician: (Dr. Prince)

Provides pediatric consultation. Dr. Prince has a half hour to see each family. He does a complete physical examination, discusses any medical concerns with the family and explains to the other team members and community agencies about the general medical history so that appropriate program recommendations are made.

Nurse Coordinator: (Eleanor Ryrie)

Acts as a liason or contact person for families and community agencies. Coordinates the daily activities of the clinic.

Orthoptist: (Patty Burns)

Assists the ophthalmologist in determining the level and range of vision of each child and offers input to the team on the visual management and prognosis.

Physiotherapist: (Jacque McKecknie)

Assesses the effect of visual impairment on the development of coordination and mobility skills. Delays in skills are evaluated in terms of the child's ability to function at home and in school.

Speech Therapist: (Karen Duff)

Evaluates the child's knowledge and use of speech and language. The speech therapist also provides information and consultation to parents and involved services regarding speech and language development of visually impaired or blind children.

Occupational Therapist: (Valerie Fendall)

Focuses on the effect of the child's visual impairment as it affects daily living, play and readiness skills for pre-school and school programs. The therapist teaches efficient use of residual vision as well as compensatory hand skills.

Psychologist: (Mary Ellen Baldwin)

Reviews and assesses the cognitive, emotional, and social-behavioural needs of the visually impaired child and his/her family. Behaviour management counselling and family support are provided for parents, families and teachers who have difficulty understanding and meeting the psychological needs of the child.

Social Worker: (Penny Bayer)

Parents sometimes experience periods of added stress in dealing with their child's impairment in their role as a parent, in their family situation, in financial matters, in encouraging their child to develop as normally as possible in our society. The social worker will assist families in meeting these needs.

REFERRALS:

Are accepted from the Family Physician or Ophthalmologist. Referrals should be directed to Dr. H. Moghadam, Director of the Diagnosis, Assessment and Treatment Centre.

SEQUENCE OF STEPS FOLLOWING THE REFERRAL:

1. Pre-Assessment

Upon receiving a referral; a consent to obtain information form, a medical history form and a vision screening questionnaire are mailed to the family for completion.

The nurse coordinator talks with families before clinic to explain the procedure and the roles of the team members.

Children living in the city are assessed in their home by the speech therapist, occupational therapist and the physiotherapist. The clinic feels it is best to see the child in a familiar environment. The social worker and psychologist will either make a home visit or see the family in the D.A.T. Centre, whichever is more appropriate.

Children living outside of Calgary are seen in the D.A.T. Centre by the team on the Thursday prior to clinic.

2. Clinic

The Vision Clinic is held on the fourth Friday of each month. On the Friday morning, the child and family are seen by the clinic's consulting pediatrician and ophthalmologist.

Following their examination, a conference is held including parents, all team members who have seen the child, the C.N.I.B. caseworker and any other agency that is involved with the family (e.g. for Educational Consultants for Visually Impaired Children, school, daycare, Community Health Nurse). The test results and program suggestions are discussed at the conference.

Following clinic, the nurse coordinator compiles a conference note which summarizes the clinic findings and recommendations. This report is sent to the parents, involved physicians and any involved agencies which the parents consent to receiving a copy.

A total clinic reassessment is available every 8-12 months depending on the need.

3. Treatment

The main focus of treatment is to assist parents in learning about appropriate stimulation so that they can help their child reach his/her best potential.

Babies are usually seen by the occupational therapist, physio-therapist and speech therapist every 2-3 months to provide ongoing program ideas. Once the child reaches the approximate age of two and a half years, it is usually suggested that they attend a day-care on a part-time or full-time basis. It is usually suggested that an aide be hired to work with the child. Consult and programming ideas can be provided by the clinic if requested. This is done through visits to the daycare.

Types of treatment provided:

a) Active Treatment

Can be provided by the clinic for families living in Calgary. Children living outside the city can be referred to local therapy services.

b) Home Programming

Stimulation techniques are shown to the parents and updated every 2-3 months.

c) Consultation

Consultation is provided as necessary to the child's program.

If any further information on the Vision Clinic is needed, please contact:

Eleanor Ryrie
Nurse Coordinator
Vision Clinic
D.A.T. Centre
Alberta Children's Hospital
1820 Richmond Road S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2T 5C7
Phone: 245-7313

AGENCY: GLENROSE HOSPITAL

The planned for Preschool Program for the Visually Impaired is intended to serve blind infants and children who are ambulatory and not mentally retarded.

A. PROGRAMS

1. An assessment will be performed at the point of identification of significant visual impairment to determine the stage of mental and physical growth, and intellect and cognition of the child. It will be accompanied with appropriate parental counselling, information, and follow-up. Assessments will be carried out at a centralized facility such as the Glenrose or in the home environment.
2. Once the visually impaired child is at least six months old, a home program will be introduced to the family. It will stress parent involvement with the child and give suggestions regarding orientation and mobility skills in keeping with developing motor abilities. Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy will be utilized.
3. When the child is from 3 to 5 years of age he will enter a classroom setting. This will involve 4 half days a week. The younger children will attend in the morning and the older children will attend in the afternoon. Three children will be in each class with instruction provided by a kindergarten teacher and an aide geared to prepare the child for entry into Visually Impaired or Braille classes within the Edmonton Public School Board or to the local school with assistance from the respective itinerant teacher for the visually impaired.

B. ELIGIBILITY

The program is presently being developed and is not formally structured. The intent of the program is to provide a service to visually impaired

children (20/200 or worse) in Northern Alberta with normal intellect and ambulatory.

C. CONTACT

Preschool Developmental Program for Visually Impaired

Glenrose Hospital
10230 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 471-2262

AGENCY: OPTHAMOLOGIST

An opthamologist is a fully trained medical specialist who studies the management of eye problems. Starting from the original assessment of an eye problem (be it anything from a refractive error to an eye tumor), he decides what appropriate treatment should be administered, and then carries out or arranges for the treatment.

A. PROGRAM

When a visually impaired child first comes to the opthamologist, the opthamologist must assess all aspects of eye function. He will assess visual acuity by checking to see if the child is using both eyes together, that the eyes are aligned properly, and that the child is able to focus on objects in the distance and up close.

Usually the first step in assessment is to apply cycloplegic drops to dialate the pupils and relax the lenses. The opthamologist then refracts the eyes and measures to check if there is a refractive error. The visual actuity will be checked again using corrective lenses.

If there is no improvement, an examination of the ocular media and neural elements will be done.

The patient, after completion of an assessment, may be referred to other specialists for further testing or to specialty clinics i.e. Glaucoma Clinic at University Hospital or Retinal Unit at Royal Alexandra Hospital (see Retinal Unit).

B. ELIGIBILITY

Referrals usually come from family doctors, school authorities, or public health clinic programs but a specific referral is not usually necessary.

C. COST

The cost of an examination is covered by Alberta Health Care. Extra billing may occur in some cases.

AGENCY: RETINAL UNIT

The identified need for a retinal unit was originated by the Royal Alexandra Hospital (Edmonton) seven years ago. It is a subspeciality of ophthalmology dealing strictly with diseases of the retina.

A. PROGRAM

The Retinal Unit serves in a consultant capacity to all ophthalmologists in Northern Alberta, North West Territories, Northern British Columbia, and parts of Saskatchewan.

All types of surgery are performed at the Retinal Unit depending on the cause of eye damage, e.g.

diabetes	bilateral cataracts
cataracts	Retro Lental Fibroplasia (R.L.F.)
macular degeneration	congenital cataracts
glaucoma	congenital malformations
retinitis pigmentosa	retinoblastoma
trauma	

B. ELIGIBILITY

All referrals to the Retinal Unit come from ophthalmologists.

C. COST

The cost of services performed through the Retinal Unit are usually covered through Medicare.

D. CONTACT

Through your opthamologist, the

Royal Alexandra Hospital
RETINAL UNIT
2nd Floor, Room 2427
Telephone: 477-9619

AGENCY: OPTOMETRIST

Once it is determined that nothing can be done surgically or pharmaceutically to improve a patient's vision, the optometrist's purpose is to find out how much residual sight remains. Low vision aids (magnification devices) are introduced to enable maximum efficiency of remaining sight.

i.e. optical - microscope
 - telescope
nonoptical - large print books

A. PROGRAM

After a primary routine examination, an assessment appointment should be made. During this 1-2 hour assessment, the visual capability of the patient will be determined.

The optometrist will experiment with different vision aids until the most appropriate and efficient one is found, then will direct the patient to the particular company where it may be purchased.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Patients come to an optometrist usually on a referral basis from ophthalmologists but a parent referral is satisfactory. Some medical reports are preferred.

C. COST

There is a usual examination fee set by the doctor. Handborn aids, i.e. low vision aids such as a telescope purchased are totally covered by Alberta Health Care via Aids for Daily Living.

Services provided by Social Service agencies:

- Early Intervention Program
- Resources for the Dependent Handicapped
- Alberta Aids for Daily Living
- Handicapped Childrens Services
- Eric Cormack Centre
- Rosecrest Home

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

There are eleven Early Intervention Programs in the province of Alberta serving at any one time approximately 175 to 200 handicapped children and their families. These children range in age from birth to three and half years.

A. PROGRAM

The EIP's have been established to provide professional support in the home for developmentally delayed children. Programs are developed on an individual basis according to the needs of the child and family. The basic core content of the program for the child attempts to provide the following.

For the Child:

1. Provides appropriate standards and expectations for the child in terms of present developmental levels and relative to the levels of development that may be attained.

For the Family:

1. Teaches parents how to interact with the handicapped child.
(Provides information to parents so as to assist them in teaching their child.)
2. Provides family assessment to determine how they are coping with the handicapped child.
3. Encourages parents to work through developmental patterns
i.e. First the child must learn to grasp the spoon.
Second the child must put the spoon to the plate.
Third the child must put the spoon to the mouth.
by learning of programs in some or all of the developmental areas:

language
cognition
self-help skills
fine motor (including vision)
gross motor
socialization

4. Supports the family in any emotional problems related to the child's disability and ensure appropriate referral to community agencies.

Criteria for Entry

1. Direct referral by program staff or on the basis of nursing assessment.
2. Referral may be based on the case decision at conclusion of an assessment procedure.
3. Referral is essential if the child and family have more than four identifiable problems.

Exit Criteria

1. At the age of three and half years provisions must be made for further programming. Early Childhood Services, Specialized Day Care and Integrated Day Care are seen as the most likely programs able to provide continuing care. Considerable liaison will be necessary with these agencies at a local level.
2. Developmental delay is removed or target behavior is achieved.
3. Family is able to cope independently.
4. Exit criteria may be based on local program considerations.

B. COST

Administrative and funding responsibilities for E.I.P. are controlled by Community Health Services Branch. There are currently eleven offices through which contact can be made, or you may receive direction from your local health unit.

C. CONTACT

Information on appropriate Early Intervention Program can be given by the corresponding Health Unit in the area. The above health units offer in-home programs for the parents and families of handicapped children.

Athabasca Health Unit
Box 1140
Athabasca, Alberta T0G 0B0

Barons-Eureka-Warner Health Unit
Box 1000
Coaldale, Alberta T0K 0L0

City of Calgary
Local Board of Health
Box 2100
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

City of Edmonton Health Department
787 C.N. Tower
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0K1

Fort McMurray & District Health Unit
42 Riedel Street
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3E1

Peace River Health Unit
Box 69
Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0

Medicine Hat Health Unit
770 First Street, S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 0B4

Mount View Health Unit
Skyline Square
101, 5421 - 11 Street, N.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2E 6M4

Chinook Health Unit
Box 727
Fort MacLeod, Alberta T0L 0Z0

Grande Prairie Health Unit
10801 - 100 Street
Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 3B5

City of Lethbridge Health Unit
542 - 7 Street South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 2H1

AGENCY: RESOURCES FOR THE DEPENDENT HANDICAPPED

Resources for the Dependent Handicapped, funded through the Department of Social Services and Community Health, operates thirteen group homes in the Edmonton area.

A. PROGRAM

The two primary objectives of R.D.H. are:

1. To provide community based residential care, and developmental training of the dependent handicapped.
2. To utilize community resources for the purpose of normalizing and mainstreaming of the dependent handicapped.

When a child enters a group home, a highly individualized program is established through the combined efforts of different professionals: his Social Worker, teachers, therapists, and staff. The program establishes several goals to improve areas in which the child is lacking, such as, self-help skills, daily living skills, socializations, recreation, communication, community involvement, and mobility. The program is carried on in an integrated school setting, and in the home as much as possible. The program may include day care services, residential services and relief programs.

B. ELIGIBILITY

The group homes are designed for the care and education of multiple handicapped, profoundly mentally retarded children between the ages of five and eighteen years. However, R.D.H. does not accept children who are medically unstable because the group homes do not have the facilities to accommodate children who require constant medical attention.

C. COSTS

Parents are requested to pay twenty dollars a month for their child; but payment is based upon ability to pay. Parents are also asked to participate in the implementation of the program.

D. CONTACT

Resources for the Dependent Handicapped
6715 - 86 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 427-4354

PROGRAM: ALBERTA AIDS FOR DAILY LIVING

The Alberta Aids for Daily Living is a health support measure for those individuals residents of Alberta with chronic or long term health disorders or handicaps.

The program is coordinated by the Department of Social Services and Community Health, through the local health authorities.

A. Program

The objective of this program is to provide specific aids, supplies and equipment at no cost. Maintenance and servicing of those aids is provided too.

B. Eligibility

Albertans with medical conditions of a long-term nature who are registered under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan are eligible. They must not be receiving benefits under Extended Health Benefits, Worker's Compensation, private insurance plans, nor be eligible for similar benefits under Federal Government programs.

C. Cost

There are no costs for this program.

D. Contact

Local Health Unit.

AGENCY: HANDICAPPED CHILDRENS SERVICES

Handicapped Children's Services, funded through the Department of Social Services and Community Health, operates a parental relief agency, offering financial assistance to the parents of handicapped children. This organization will offer assistance to parents who feel an extra financial strain because of a direct result of the handicapping condition of their child. This assistance is strictly financial, no direct programming is involved. Parents should realize there is no means test.

A. PROGRAM

In the application of assistance, three factors are considered:

1. What services are necessitated by the child;
2. What services are necessitated by the parents;
3. How these services will be paid for.

In addition to these three factors, parents must investigate all alternate sources of financial aid prior to application; i.e. does their local municipality have a funding program?

B. ELIGIBILITY

The service is available to all parents of handicapped children in Alberta. Written verification of the child's handicap must be forwarded to H.C.S. central office in Edmonton, Alberta.

C. COSTS

Once an application is accepted, a Cost-Share agreement is worked out between the parents and the H.C.S. Social Worker. The agreement merely states in which areas H.C.S. will assist the parents, and each agreement is individualistic being based on the personal situation of the parents.

D. CONTACT

To apply for assistance, parents must contact their local H.C.S. caseworker. Referrals may be obtained through the local Social Services branch.

Northeastern Regional Centre: 623-4474

Northwestern Regional Centre: 324-3960

Edmonton Regional Centre: 427-0003

Central Regional Centre: 227-6868

Calgary Regional Centre: 261-4575

Southern Regional Centre: 345-2277

AGENCY: ERIC CORMACK CENTRE

The Eric Cormack Centre, funded by the Department of Social Services and Community Health, is a regional institution designed for the care of multiple handicapped, profoundly mentally retarded persons. The age for admittance to the Cormack Centre begins at four and one half years. Medical instability must be prevalent.

A. PROGRAM

Programming is done on site, by special education teachers, and rehabilitation practitioners. Each child is assessed, and highly individualized program organized. The programming is on a one to one basis, and may include such early life skills as learning to grasp objects, increasing attention span, making eye contact, and sensory stimulation.

The Cormack Centre also offers relief beds if parents are in a situation where by they are unable to care for their child for an extended period of time. A three week limit has been placed on these relief beds, but this regulation is extremely flexible.

B. ELIGIBILITY

The minimum age for admittance to the Cormack Centre is four and one half years. Multihandicaps and medical instability must be prevalent. Parents must submit applications for admission through a Social Worker. The application is reviewed by the centre's Regional Placement Committee.

C. COST

Parents are asked to supply their child with clothing, and any comforts such as toys.

D. CONTACT

Eric Cormack Centre
9835 - 112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 527-6522

AGENCY: ROSECREST HOME

Rosecrest Home, funded through the Department of Social Services and Community Health, is a residential institution designed for multiple handicapped, and/or profoundly mentally retarded children. This institution accepts children between the ages of three months to five and one half years of age, and is the only centre of its kind in the Province of Alberta.

A. PROGRAM

The educational aspect of Rosecrest is divided into two components:

1. The Rosecrest programming, for children under two and a half;
2. The Mayfield Early Education program, for children over two and a half.

These two programs are basically the same concentrating on the development of sensory skills, the only major differences being the addition of an occupational, and physio therapist in the Mayfield program; areas of concentration are sensory skills, fine and gross motor skills, cognitive skills, language skills, and a variety of self-help skills. To these areas of concentration the Mayfield Early Education Program adds Occupational and Physio therapy.

Both programs are based on a five day week, from September until June. The summer months being given over to recreation.

At the age of five and a half, the medically unstable children may be transferred to another institution such as the Eric Cormack centre; medically stable children may be transferred into a group home, through Resources for the Dependent Handicapped, or into a foster home.

Rosecrest also offers relief beds if parents are in a situation where by they are unable to care for their childre for an extended period of time. Length of time is dependent upon each individual circumstance.

B. ELIGIBILITY

This institution accepts children between the ages of 3 months to five and one half years. Rosecrest receives referrals via three major sources: agencies involved with handicapped children, hospitals, and parents. An application for service will be screened by an admissions committee. Only the multi-handicapped and/or medically unstable are eligible for admission. The admissions committee will meet with and discuss the child, and decide where that child is most appropriately placed.

C. COST

Parents of the children at Rosecrest are asked to pay as much as possible towards the child's clothing and medication.

D. CONTACT

Rosecrest Home
10205 - 134 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 476-5494

Services provided by any other agencies:

- Alberta Library Services for the Handicapped
- Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta (D.E.C.S.A.)

AGENCY: ALBERTA LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Alberta Library Services for the Handicapped, funded through Alberta Culture, has a large number of both fiction and non-fiction materials available to handicapped persons. All materials are in talking book and large print form.

A. PROGRAM

The program is designed to provide talking or large print books for people of all ages who, because of a visual, physical or perceptual handicap cannot read conventional print. Talking books and magazines are recorded on cassette tapes and most are in English, but some are in French.

Books must be ordered from the Edmonton or Calgary Public Libraries which will be sent to the local library branch. Cassette players are available if necessary, and may be obtained through Edmonton or Calgary Public Libraries (supplies limited).

B. ELIGIBILITY

To obtain usage of materials an application accompanied by written verification of handicap from a physician or an association for the handicap must be submitted to the local public library. The library will forward the application to the Alberta Library Services for the Handicapped.

C. COST

There is no cost or time limit on borrowed materials:

D. CONTACT

Alberta Library for the Handicapped
16214 - 114 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 427-2556

AGENCY: DISTINCTIVE EMPLOYMENT
COUNSELLING SERVICES OF ALBERTA (D.E.C.S.A.)

D.E.C.S.A. is a branch office of the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission serving three groups of handicapped persons, visually impaired, hearing impaired, and persons with a history of mental illness.

A. PROGRAM

Desca's program has two objectives:

1. Employment readiness which is designed for persons who are uncertain about what career to pursue, and who also may be unsure of how to apply for the position desired. The program allows for individual and group discussions, while concentrating on career counselling, job exploration, job search techniques, motivation of individuals, and job application. Once a month, D.E.C.S.A. offers a one week orientation which covers all of the preceding points and more depending on the individuals involved.
2. Employment placement which is designed for persons who have acquired some form of training, and are seeking employment. In this situation, the main features of the employment counsellor are to offer job leads, suggestions on where to search for employment, to act as a liaison between the employer and the handicapped person and offer orientations on the job site. All of these functions may vary greatly depending on the specific needs of the individual.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Any handicapped person with one of the following: vision impairment, hearing impairment or with a history of mental illness may register in the program.

C. COST

There is no cost to the individual.

At present, D.E.C.S.A. receives funding both federally and provincially, through the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission, and Advanced Education and Manpower.

D. CONTACT

Appointments can be obtained by contacting D.E.C.S.A. Referrals from other employment agencies are not necessary.

D.E.C.S.A.
10924 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: 420-1745

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL